

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Status of the Claims

Claims 9, 15 and 18 are currently amended. Claims 1-8 and 11 were previously cancelled. Support for the amendment to claim 9 is found at, *inter alia*, [0046]-[0048]. Claim 15 was amended to address a comment made by the Examiner in the Office Action about the term “LLC.” Claim 18 was amended to correct an obvious typographical error. No new matter has been added. Upon entry of this paper, therefore, claims 9, 10 and 12-18 are pending in this application.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 9-10 and 14-16 are still rejected as being anticipated by Wada. Applicants respectfully traverse.

According to the Office Action, Wada discloses an outlet through-hole (34b or 33b) which is provided in a most downstream bent portion in at least one of the anode gas passage and the cathode gas passage, the through-hole allowing movement of moisture through the fuel cells.

In contrast, claim 9 as amended defines that the bent portions are of substantially 180 degrees. The fuel cell stack comprises a through-hole connecting at least one of the anode gas passages of the fuel cells between the anode gas supply manifold and the anode effluence exhaust manifold and the cathode gas passages of the fuel cells between the cathode gas supply manifold and the cathode effluence exhaust manifold. Further, claim 9 recites that the through-hole connects most downstream bent portions in at least one of the anode gas passages and the cathode gas passages and allows movement of moisture through the fuel cells.

The outlet through-holes 34b and 33b of Wada do not have such a configuration. Accordingly, the present invention as defined in claim 9 is not anticipated by Wada.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 17 and 18 are still rejected as being unpatentable over Wada in view of Mizutani. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection because claims 17 and 18 are dependent to claim 9 and are allowable for the same reasons why claim 9 is allowable as discussed above.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by the credit card payment instructions in EFS-Web being incorrect or absent, resulting in a rejected or incorrect credit card transaction, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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By Michael D. Kaminski

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Customer Number: 22428
Telephone: (202) 672-5490
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

Michael D. Kaminski
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 32,904